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The Vista

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To: Sarah Dusseault <sarah.dusseault@lacity.org>, Catherine Landers <catherine.landern@lacity.org>

So, I wandered up to the vista. The traffic was an issue on Dirt Mulholland (though I took Heather up instead of Beachwood so I can't say one thing or another about Beachwood), but it wasn't too extreme. Far less than many other streets in the city. There was a DoT (Diane) person and a Ranger (Carl) on station at the top of the hill. I watched Diane direct traffic... but while I was watching her do that, I saw a man (from New Mexico) park in the red zone (I told him that parking in a red zone is illegal, he looked surprised said "sorry" and moved his car).

As to the traffic, in my opinion, it wasn't that bad. I mean, it was a bit more than you'd see in small town, but it wasn't 1000 cars travelling at a million miles an hour in the 45 minutes (to an hour) that I was up there, I only saw traffic block for a couple of short periods as people were trying to either leave or park. I saw no one try to U turn at the top of the hills (most U-turning happened at the bottom). For the rest of this, I'm sorry if I'm repeating something that everyone knows, I just want to be thorough.

I talked to both of the enforcement people on station briefly about their feelings on the local traffic and working the area.:

1. Very few of the people up there were speaking English (I heard Chinese, Korean, German and what I'm pretty sure was Portuguese walking up the hill). A lot of them seemed to not know the driving customs or laws. I think communications might an issue.
2. A lot of the people saw the DoT or Ranger as a source of information; in the short time that I talked to both, several people came and asked them questions (how do we get to the reservoir from here, is there a better place for pictures, where is the bathroom). If you space that out, I could see where that would distract from their primary job, and some things would get missed.
3. One of the big issues is that by the time the DoT officer walked down to ticket a person, the person pulled away.
4. Crossing the road proved problematic for people as they'd try to scuttle across in front of cars.
5. Most people were simply parking and going... that meant traffic was a bit brisk.

Honestly – and this is not to belittle their position – if they claim that today is as bad or worse then yesterday, then I really don't see how bad it could have been. I mean, if I person is going from absolute silence and tranquility (like maybe the area was long ago – I don't know, I didn't live there prior to GPS), I imagine it'd seem pretty busy – but from someone living anywhere else, it'd just be LA: there are tourists and there is a bit of congestion. A lot of people don't speak English, so getting a response can be hard as well.

There is talk about "well if an ambulance had to get through" or "well if a firetruck" talk, but that's predictive... we could "what if" all the way into "what if and meteorite hit the city" but it's not constructive. Right now – reading the thread that Catherine has put me on – in my opinion we're getting a bit of an echo chamber effect. They're working themselves and each other up, as they are stacking "outrage" after "outrage." Each is incrementally growing anger ("yeah, but THEN"), but overall, I just see this as a pretty average day elsewhere in LA. It might actually be a bit worse over by the Observatory.

Here are some ideas (not that they'd matter, but wingin' it).

1. Another DoT person, at the same station but further down might help, so that when someone does something stupid on the street (requiring the directing of traffic), the other can try and hit people parking illegally.
2. I only saw one illegal parker the entire time I was there (and that was the first guy – and that was simply attempting to park in front of a fire hydrant). So I think a part of it might just be the fact that some people

were parking down in the residential area... but the roads down by the lake are very wide. Still some no U-turn signs might be wise.

3. A bathroom might be helpful, as that seemed to be a general complaint and it'd make it easier for both tourist and enforcement.
4. A cross walk or two somewhere, to direct people to areas to cross through instead of having them cross over the street all willy-nilly like.

I'll reserve my other opinions until asked by either of you. Sorry this wasn't brief.

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